

## **PAST THE POST 31 AUGUST 2005**

Another outstanding start to a Goldfields racing carnival was witnessed by a terrific crowd on Sunday when two locals split the line to dead heat in the \$100,000 Aon Coolgardie Cup (1600m) at the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racecourse.

Congratulations go to trainers Neville Newton and Cliff Smith for winning the race with Morocco Bound and Heavenly Business respectively. It was a result certain to make those from outside the region take notice.

In what surely is a record, both horses were initially listed as emergencies for the race when the final field was declared last Monday. Thankfully for their delighted connections they gained a start and both are still eligible for the second leg of the \$100,000 National Hire Triple Nugget Bonus.

The most difficult leg in the treble for Morocco Bound would have been the Coolgardie Cup. If he can reproduce that effort in the second leg - the NRW Civil and Mining Boulder Cup (1760m) - connections will enter the last hurdle – the XXXX Gold Kalgoorlie Cup (2300m) - full of confidence.

With three wins in the Tatt's Cup (2300m) under his belt, Morocco Bound will certainly handle the distance of the race.

As discussed earlier in the season, Newton has done an outstanding job with Morocco Bound. The respected mentor deserves all the accolades that are thrown his way and many will be hoping he can collect the massive bounty that is on offer.

As for Heavenly Business, the future looks very bright. Cliff Smith has always held the horse in high esteem but his decision regarding Heavenly Business is not as easy as Newton's.

Does Smith stick to his guns and run Heavenly Business in the \$120,000 WesTrac Hannan's Handicap (1400m) – a race he really wants to win – or does he chase the bonus?

It is unlikely that inexperienced four-year-old could stand the rigours of taking both pathways, so Smith and the owners - his wife Sue along with Pat Behsman, face some tough decisions.

Smith said yesterday he was still undecided but forced to make a decision, Heavenly Business would more than likely tackle the Boulder feature and then a decision would be made on the Hannan's.

No doubt the celebrations have continued throughout the week by both sets of connections and with the Coolgardie club itself.

In addition to some outstanding figures on the day, the club announced that loyal sponsor in Aon would continue its sponsorship next year.

Aon have been sensational supporters of the race for many years. The decision by the leading financial services provider is great news for local racing and Aon's continued support of the region should be commended.

As for the day – well it was a beauty. Some outstanding racing with the undeniable highlight the dead heat in the cup.

The tote on course was \$136,599.50, which mirrored the figure from the previous season. Considering it was on a Sunday this year, that result is very encouraging.

It gets better!

Off course turnover was \$724,633.46, up a massive \$230,711 on last year.

The bookies were up \$25,000 on course from the preceding year.

The gate attendance was down fractionally but the crowd was up significantly. How could this be?

A couple of outstanding promotions were responsible.

Many people took advantage of free gate admission. Until 11.30am patrons were admitted at no charge to attend the Bluey Day - Shave For A Cure and the Caravan & Camping Show.

No doubt both these promotions will consider repeating the joint venture again next season based on the success of both events.

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With the Aon Coolgardie Cup run and won for another year, this week the attention swings to the runners in the \$30,000 Dewsons O'Connor Gold Cup (1400m) for the sprinters.

The winner of the race is exempt from the ballot of the WesTrac Hannan's Handicap (1400m) to be run on the Thursday of the Round.

With competition for a final spot in the field sure to be strong, it will be interesting to see if the solid number of Perth-based runners holds-up when final declarations are released this morning.

Dewsons has really got behind the meeting and so the action should be exciting both on and off the track.

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Now on to the subject of what's happening in the next few weeks and there's plenty to report.

Firstly, the \$10,000 (plus other prizes) Burswood World Two-up Championship commenced on Sunday following the AON Coolgardie Cup meeting. The next qualifying game will be held this Sunday, September 4 following the Dewsons O'Connor Gold Cup race meeting.

Speaking of the Burswood International Resort Casino, don't miss out on checking their promotion at the 2005 KBRC Race Round.

If you pay a visit to the Burswood International Resort Casino Marquee located at the main entrance thoroughfare on September 15 and 17, you'll be able to register as a Club Burswood member. The first 500 people to do so on each day will receive a free gift and be in the running to share in some terrific prizes.

There is plenty of interest in the Golden City Motors Trainers' Bonus and the Betta Electrical Goldfields Furniture Jockeys' Bonus commencing on Sunday-week.

Judging from the positive reaction KBRC officials received from those in attendance for the Aon Coolgardie Cup, it will be interesting to see the noms for next week's meeting.

Expectations are high that they could be the best for the season.

For those of you in the mood to party over the Round, an absolute must is the longest lunch on Wednesday, 14 September.

The event will be conducted down Hannan Street starting near Monty's and finishing at Judd's Kalgoorlie Hotel.

An idea from KBRC marketing guru in Helen McCormack a few years back has blossomed to an event that has captured the interest of many, including a possible crack for the Guinness Book of World Records this year.

The very popular Echo Fashions on the Field will be conducted on Hannan's Handicap day and we'll have a lot more about that next week.

For those wanting a reminder about the dates of the Round - and by the way tickets are available throughout the city to avoid waiting at the gate - they are as follows: - Sunday, 11 September - NRW Civil and Mining Boulder Cup; Thursday, 15 September - WesTrac Hannan's Handicap; and Saturday, 17 September - XXXX Gold Kalgoorlie Cup.

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Finally, the Harry Wulff Memorial Social Golf Day has started to gather momentum.

To be played at the Hannans Golf Club in Aslett Drive Kalgoorlie on Monday, 12 September, participants will gather from 10.30am for an 11am tee off.

The day will take the form of an Ambrose event with 4 players per team. At a cost of \$120 per group – proceeds will be donated equally to the Cancer & Oliver Foundations in memory of the late Harry Wulff.

If you'd like to enter a group or just as an individual, contact the KBRC, the Star and Garter Hotel, the Federal Hotel or the Hannans Golf Club for a nomination form.

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